

MAR 08 2019

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

ENGAGING, ENDORSING, ACCEPTING, AND ADOPTING THE AARHUS
CONVENTION TO ACHIEVE THE UNITED NATIONS PARIS AGREEMENT,
THE 2030 AGENDA, AND THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN
RIGHTS.

1 WHEREAS, Hawai'i is recognized as a global partner and local
2 leader in promoting human rights to create a culture of
3 democracy, rule of law, and protection of the planet through its
4 adoption of global and regional standards to guide decision-
5 making processes; and
6

7 WHEREAS, Hawai'i is guided by traditional Hawaiian values
8 and emerging international human rights visions to generate good
9 governance and ensure participation in policymaking and
10 protection of our islands and the planet; and
11

12 WHEREAS, in September 2015, the United Nations General
13 Assembly adopted the historic 2030 Development Agenda entitled
14 "Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable
15 Development", a comprehensive, compassionate, creative, and
16 courageous plan of action to end poverty, protect the planet,
17 and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity; and
18

19 WHEREAS, in December 2015, the United Nations Framework
20 Convention on Climate Change Conference of Parties agreed to the
21 Paris Agreement, calling for the first time to limit future
22 increases in the global average temperature to 1.5 degrees
23 Celsius; and
24

25 WHEREAS, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
26 Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in
27 Decision-Making, and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters
28 (Aarhus Convention) is an important instrument for achieving the
29 goals of the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda; and
30



1 WHEREAS, the Aarhus Convention consists of numerous
2 articles covering ideas and coordinating implementation
3 including the following:
4

- 5 (1) Access to Environmental Information;
6
- 7 (2) Collection and Dissemination of Environmental
8 Information;
9
- 10 (3) Public Participation in Decisions on Specific
11 Activities;
12
- 13 (4) Public Participation Concerning Plans, Programmes, and
14 Policies Relating to the Environment;
15
- 16 (5) Public Participation During the Preparation of
17 Executive Regulations and/or Generally Applicable
18 Legally Binding Normative Instruments; and
19
- 20 (6) Access to Justice; and
21

22 WHEREAS, to further accountability of and transparency in
23 decision-making and to strengthen public support for decisions
24 on the environment; and
25

26 WHEREAS, to ensure that the public is aware of procedures
27 for participation in environmental decision-making, has free
28 access to the political process, and knows how to exercise that
29 access; and
30

31 WHEREAS, to reinforce the importance of respective roles
32 for individual citizens, non-profit associations, and non-
33 governmental organizations in the promotion of environmental
34 protection; and
35

36 WHEREAS, to continue educational, community, and
37 governmental efforts to further the understanding of the
38 environment and sustainable development and to encourage
39 widespread public awareness of and participation in decisions
40 affecting sustainable development in Hawai'i; now, therefore,
41



S.C.R. NO. 130

1 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature
2 of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2019, the House of
3 Representatives concurring, that this body engages, endorses,
4 accepts, and adopts the Aarhus Convention; and
5

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Congress of the United
7 States is requested to embrace the Aarhus Convention and make
8 protection of the environment and decision-making on
9 environmental policies the centerpiece of national debate and
10 practice; and
11

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
13 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the
14 United States, Vice President of the United States, Speaker of
15 the United States House of Representatives, President Pro
16 Tempore of the United States Senate, Majority Leader of the
17 United States House of Representatives, Minority Leader of the
18 United States House of Representatives, Majority Leader of the
19 United States Senate, Minority Leader of the United States
20 Senate, Hawai'i's congressional delegation, Governor, mayor of
21 each county, Secretary General of the United Nations, United
22 Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, and Chairs of
23 Hawai'i's Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission.
24
25
26

OFFERED BY:

Karl Rhoads

Paul E. Rife

Mike Guttal

SC
SC

